

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 27-33 were allowed and claims 1-26 and 34-36 were rejected. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 27-33. By the present Response, claims 3, 5, 6, 16, 19, 26, 34, and 35 have been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-36 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, 6, 8, 16-26, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Colangelo, Jr., (hereinafter “Colangelo”), U.S. Patent No. 6,025,574. A *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a showing that each limitation of a claim is found in a single reference, practice or device. *In re Donohue*, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Claims 5, 6, 8, 16-26, and 34-36 are not anticipated because the Colangelo reference does not disclose all of the recited features of the claims.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 16-23, and 26

One of the recited features of amended independent claim 5 that is not disclosed by the Colangelo reference is a welding handle, comprising “a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction *to approximately the first and second ends.*” The Colangelo reference discloses a welding gun 1 that has a handle 2 that is grasped by an operator. *See* Colangelo, col. 3, liens 1-3. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Colangelo discloses “a handle 2...having increased cross-sectional area between the respective first and second handle ends (with respect to the approximate middle of the gripping portion of the handle)....” In Fig. 2 of Colangelo, there is a curved portion of the handle 2 that appears to be designed to receive a finger. Presumably, this is the area to

which the Examiner is referring. However, when looking at Fig. 2, it is clear that the handle 2 does not “increase in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction *to approximately the first and second ends*,” as recited in claim 5. For example, it appears that the handle 2 of Colangelo actually decreases in cross-sectional area from the curved portion designed to receive a finger to the rear end of the handle 2, i.e., the right end in this view. Therefore, Colangelo does not disclose all of the recited features of the claim.

For similar reasons, Colangelo also fails to disclose a handle for a welding system, “wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion *to the first and second ends*,” as recited in amended independent claim 16. In addition, the Colangelo reference also fails to disclose a welding handle piece, comprising: “a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion is adapted to cooperate with a corresponding welding handle piece to increase cross-sectional area of the handle from a location between the first and second end portions in each direction *to the first and second end portions*,” as recited in amended independent claim 26

Accordingly, independent claims 5, 16, and 23 are not anticipated by the Colangelo reference. Claims 6, 8, 17-22, and 26 depend from independent claims 5, 16, and 23 respectively. Therefore, claims 6, 8, 17-22, and 26 also are not anticipated by the Colangelo reference.

Claim 34

In addition, one of the recited features of amended independent claim 34 that is not disclosed by Colangelo is “wherein the handle is adapted to be gripped by a user...in a second orientation at the desired cross-sectional area to enable the user to operate the trigger with one of a thumb and the palm of a hand by placing the one of a thumb and the

palm of a hand on the trigger.” The handle 2 of Colangelo is clearly constructed to enable the trigger 5 to be operated only by placing a finger on the trigger 5. The handle 2 simply is not shaped to enable a user to grip the handle 2 and operate the trigger 5 by placing the palm of a hand or a thumb on the trigger 5. The curved shape of the handle 2 in general and the curved portion designed to receive a finger in specific both interfere with the ability of a user to operate the trigger with one of a thumb and the palm of a hand. Therefore, Colangelo does not disclose all of the recited features of amended independent claim 34. Accordingly, Colangelo does not anticipate claim 34.

Claims 35 and 36

Some of the recited features of amended independent claim 35 that are not disclosed by Colangelo are “a handle portion securable to a welding cable and adapted to direct the welding cable *linearly along an axis through the handle portion*, the handle portion having a varying cross-sectional area adapted to enable a user to grip the handle portion at a plurality of cross-sectional areas.” The handle 2 of Colangelo directs a welding cable through the handle 2. However, the handle 2 is curved and does not direct “the welding cable *linearly along an axis through the handle*,” as recited in claim 35.

In addition, Colangelo does not disclose “wherein the handle portion is adapted to be gripped by a hand in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the hand, the handle portion being rotated 180 degrees about the axis from the first to the second orientation,” as also recited in claim 35. The handle 2 of Colangelo clearly is adapted to be gripped in a first orientation only, and not in a second orientation rotated 180 degrees about the axis from the first orientation. Therefore, Colangelo does not disclose all of the recited features of independent claim 35. Accordingly, Colangelo does not anticipate claim 35, or claim 36, which depends therefrom.

For all of these reasons, the Colangelo reference does not anticipate claims 5, 6, 8, 16-26, and 34-36. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Second Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wakeman, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0015510. Claims 1-26 and 34-36 are not anticipated because the Wakeman reference does not disclose all of the recited features of the claims.

Claims 1-4, 9-15, 25, and 26

Some of the recited features of independent claim 1 that are not disclosed by the Wakeman reference are “a first recess operable to receive the member therein in a first direction relative to the handle, wherein the first recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle” and “a second recess operable to receive the member therein in a second direction relative to the handle, the second orientation being opposite the first direction, wherein the second recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle.”

The Wakeman reference discloses a welding gun 28 and a welding cable 30. *See* Wakeman, paragraph 28. In Fig. 4, the welding cable 30 has an octagonal member (not numbered) that is received within a recess (not numbered) on the left end of handle pieces 82 and 84. However, the opposite end of the handle pieces 82 and 84 does not have a recess that is operable to receive the octagonal member and restrict movement of the octagonal member relative to the handle 38. Therefore, the Wakeman reference does not disclose “a second recess operable to receive the member therein in a second direction relative to the handle, the second orientation being opposite the first direction, wherein

the second recess is adapted to restrict movement of the member relative to the handle,” as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, Wakeman does not disclose a configurable handle for an arc welding system, comprising: “a first receiving portion operable to capture a multi-faceted member of a welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a first direction relative to the handle” and “a second receiving portion operable to capture the multi-faceted member of the welding cable with the welding cable oriented in a second direction relative to the handle,” as recited in independent claim 9. In addition, Wakeman also fails to disclose a welding handle piece, comprising: “a first and a second receiving portion adapted to capture a welding cable connector when secured to a corresponding welding handle piece, *each receiving portion being located at an opposite end of the welding handle piece*,” as recited in claim 24.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, and 24 are not anticipated by the Wakeman reference. Claims 2-5, 9-15, 24, and 25 depend from independent claims 5, 16, and 23 respectively. Therefore, claims 2-5, 9-15, 24, and 25 also are not anticipated by the Wakeman reference.

Claims 5-8, 16-23, and 26

One of the recited features of amended independent claim 5 that is not disclosed by Wakeman is a welding handle, comprising “a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion increases in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction *to approximately the first and second ends*.”

As noted above, Wakeman discloses a welding gun 28, a welding cable 30, and a handle 38. As with the Colangelo reference, the handle 38 has a curved portion that appears to be designed to receive a finger to facilitate gripping the handle 38. However,

the handle 38 does not “increase in cross-sectional area from a first location between the first and second ends in each direction *to approximately the first and second ends*,” as recited in claim 5. Once again, as with the Colangelo reference, it appears that the handle 38 actually decreases in cross-sectional area from the curved portion to the rear end of the handle 38. Therefore, Wakeman does not disclose all of the recited features of the claim.

For similar reasons, Wakeman also fails to disclose a handle for a welding system, “wherein the handle increases in cross-sectional area in each direction from a location approximately midpoint of the gripping portion *to the first and second ends*,” as recited in amended independent claim 16. In addition, Wakeman also fails to disclose a welding handle piece, comprising: “a gripping portion, wherein the gripping portion is adapted to cooperate with a corresponding welding handle piece to increase cross-sectional area of the handle from a location between the first and second end portions in each direction *to the first and second end portions*,” as recited in amended independent claim 26

Accordingly, independent claims 5, 16, and 26 are not anticipated by the Wakeman reference. Claims 6-8 and 17-23 depend from independent claims 5, 16, and 23 respectively. Therefore, claims 6-8 and 17-23 also are not anticipated by the Wakeman reference.

Claim 34

One of the recited features of amended independent claim 34 that is not disclosed by Wakeman is “wherein the handle is adapted to be gripped by a user...in a second orientation at the desired cross-sectional area to enable the user to operate the trigger with one of a thumb and the palm of a hand by placing the one of a thumb and the palm of a hand on the trigger.”

The handle 38 of Wakeman is not “adapted to be gripped by a user...in a second orientation at the desired cross-sectional area to enable the user to operate the trigger with

one of a thumb and the *palm* of a hand by placing the one of a thumb and the palm of a hand on the trigger,” as recited in claim 34. The handle 38 is clearly constructed to enable the trigger 40 to be operated by placing a finger on the trigger 40, not by placing a palm of a hand or a thumb on the trigger 40. Therefore, Wakeman does not disclose all of the recited features of amended independent claim 34. Accordingly, the Wakeman reference does not anticipate claim 34.

Claims 35 and 36

Some of the recited features of amended independent claim 35 that are not disclosed by the Wakeman reference are “a handle portion securable to a welding cable and adapted to direct the welding cable *linearly along an axis through the handle portion*, the handle portion having a varying cross-sectional area adapted to enable a user to grip the handle portion at a plurality of cross-sectional areas” and “wherein the handle portion is adapted to be gripped by a hand in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the hand, the handle portion being rotated 180 degrees about the axis from the first to the second orientation.” The handle 38 of Wakeman directs a welding cable 30 through the handle 38. However, the handle 38 is curved and does not direct “the welding cable *linearly along an axis through the handle*, as recited in claim 35. Therefore, Wakeman does not disclose all of the recited features of independent claim 35.

Accordingly, the Wakeman reference does not anticipate claim 35. Claim 36 depends from independent claim 35. Therefore, claim 36 also is not anticipated by the Wakeman reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-33 were allowed. Applicant once again would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 27-33.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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